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**A STUDY OF EDUCATIONAL THOUGHTS OF SWAMI DAYANAND
SARASWATI AND THEIR RELEVANCE IN MODERN TIMES**

Ms. Gurpreet Kaur
Assistant Professor

Ms. Amandeep Kaur
M.Ed. Student
Sadbhavna College of Education for Women,
Raikot

ABSTRACT

The paper aimed to explore a study of educational thoughts of Swami Dayanand Saraswati and their relevance in modern times. The purpose of the study was to study the educational thoughts of Swami Dayanand Saraswati and its relevance in modern times. The present study is philosophical in nature. The study will include the analysis of the philosophical ideas of Swami Dayanand Saraswati and their implication for education. The topic is philosophical and based on historical approach. The main efforts were to study the topic under the cover of educational thoughts of Swami Dayanand Saraswati and their relevance to modern Indian education and their contribution to the field of education such as spread of education, organizations pattern etc.

Keywords - Swami Dayanand Saraswati and Education.

INTRODUCTION

He envisioned India politically free, socially reconstructed, religiously united and culturally resurgent of course on the bed rocks of Indian Vedanta. He was responsible for directing the attention of young people towards the reconstruction of India. Swami Dayanand studied not only past but also the present. He believed that the Vedas were the roots of all wisdom and knowledge imparted by God will remain forever. He was fully aware that the real progress was quiet impossible without a radical change in the outlook especially in the field of Education. Swami Ji and his Samaj made a frontal attack on social evils that were prevailing in the society at that time. He declared that every man should be equal treatment and opportunities should be provided to all us

without any caste, color or creed. He believed that regeneration India was possibly only through the Education of women. He said that Vedas are the encyclopedias of experienced truths of life. They are the most precious documents of humanity. He was the view that Vedas are not source book of Indian life and thought but also the root from which the European as well as the Semitic cultures with all their branches have spread out.

He started 'Shuddhi Movement' to brings reform in the de-generated Hinduism, because shuddhi means to pure someone and movement means the process through which work was done conception of divinity is rooted in science and truth. He made every possible effort to preserve our ancient culture and civilization.

CONTRIBUTION IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION

Dayanand defined education as that which increases knowledge, culture, and religiosity and eliminates such short comings as ignorance and prepares for happiness. He was an exponent of compulsory Education of children at primary level which should be free, compulsory and universal. He contributed his best efforts to provide the real knowledge to the masses with the help of Vedas. Modern Hinduism is a proud achievement of the teachings and sacrifices of Swami Dayanand. He established the D.A.V. institutions and added new principles in the old Educational policy.

Another feature of Dayanand's educational philosophy is that he favored throwing open Education to all classes including disinherited classes like the women and shudras. He believed that religion and morality were the basis of true education. Educational institutions are the source and recruiting ground for all trades and professions, and activities and if the source is poisoned all the streams would be polluted too. His idea was education plus work.

AIMS OF EDUCATION

The primary aim of the educational scheme was to build a highly moral and spiritual man with high ideals. He believed that good education made a God and developed nation. The main aim of Swami Ji's Education was to enlighten the individual. Spirituality was a marked and chief characteristic of their Education. He said that only

religious education can help the students to develop fully from moral upliftment. Mother and father should teach the child, so that he could be fully mentally developed. He was in favor of that Education which leads us to the highest aim of life that is salvation. Knowledge helps us to distinguish between right and wrong. He was of the view that education should be pursued for the sake of knowledge and not for preparing children for public office or lucrative jobs.

Character building was the chief aim of his Education. Education is intended only to initiate the pupil into the culture of his community and enables him to live according to its ideals and standards. Preparation for life was another aim of Swami Ji's Educational philosophy. It included preparation for living social efficiency, vocation or utilitarian included in the higher education.

CURRICULUM

Curriculum is only the means for fulfilling the aim of Education. He was of the view that the time has to change the whole structure of society according to the needs of the peoples. The present age is the age of science and Dayanand called attention to scientific facts in the Vedas the double motion of the earth round its axis and round the sun, gravitation, the distance of the Sun and the moon and astronomy of stars and the universe. He was in favor of industrialization to cure the poverty of India. He even wanted Indians to learn English in addition to mother tongue and made Hindi the national language and prepared-A three language formula.

He prepared special curriculum for different stages of life according to age. The purpose "Education should be to make the world a better, happier and safer place to live in. He has given higher place to the teacher in his scheme of studies. He said that without the help of the teacher no education is possible or complete.

METHODS OF TEACHING

He advocated different methods of teaching which included that self study method is best to understand everything and best for explanation. Practically method is also best to do practically with their own hands in the laboratory. He was in favor of strict discipline and was against coeducation. He was the first Indian who was in favor of

women education. Equal rights were given to women in constitution. In the present age at what position women has reached the foundation of that position was laid by Swami Dayanand.

RELEVANCE OF EDUCATIONAL THOUGHTS TO MODERN INDIAN EDUCATION

Swami Dayanand's main goal of life was to dispel ignorance, darkness and pessimism and to spread knowledge and optimism to destroy superstition and develop a scientific society. He gave a new outlook to Indians. He laid stress on the educated citizens of a well developed country. He said that education is of higher quality which suited to the needs of the society and his people. D.A.V. institutions in the present time are the best administrated in the private sector. These institutions provided higher type of education which is well versed in social, moral, physical and intellectual point of view. He was of the view that for reconstruction of India we have to adopt modern science and technology because the future of India is in the hands of young youth. Education is the unanimous demand of time.

The dream of free, compulsory and universal Education and right type of education is fulfilling in the modern world which was seen by Swami Ji. Just as the in the Swami Dayanand's gurukulus there was not any distinction between Sudra and king's son. All were on the same level, same as in the new Education policy, education is provided to all on the same level. Women are participating on the same level as are of men. Even in some fields they are performing better than men. Special arrangements have started for adults because only they could play an important role in the changing of old practices in to new one according to present time, Special arrangements have made for the further Education of the teachers to improve their teaching.

So, we can conclude from the above research work that Swami Dayanand was a new light of Asia, His words range with heroic power. At the present time there is a need to accept the challenge of the time through the teachings of Swami Dayanand. Our best tribute to the soul of the Dayanand, only should be the establishment of new and more and more D.A.V. institutions.

DAYANAND'S CONCEPTION OF RELIGION

Religion and Faith Swami Dayanand believed that reason and faith are not hostile to each other. Of course in many ways faith goes beyond reason but no belief is to be accepted if it contradicts the findings fifth reason. Dayanand exhorted people to examine their beliefs on the touch stone of reason and experience and reject them if they were found to be irrational. Swami Dayanand says in the introduction to the satyarth parkas “It is my belief that whatever is true in any religion is worthy of acceptance by all of us and only those things which are false and have crept into all religions have been criticized in this book”. For Dayanand all men were equal. He treated the individuality of the common man with respect and wanted to help him to behave like a dignified human being in his religious and everyday life. The religion which Dayanand placed before the people was an exceedingly simple affair. The central doctrine of religion, according to him is the worship of God by means of prayer, meditation and the daily Havana. There is no place in this religion for idol worship of pilgrimages and even for a priestly class.

CONCEPT OF PRAKRITI OR MAYA

To account for the world of change, Dayanand not only assumed the principle of spirit but also the principle of Prakriti, sometimes called Maya, as the material cause of the creation of the actual world. The very existence of the changing world implies the bed rock of an external spiritual being in which the drama of ever changing existences takes place. The whole universe, similarly, is the manifestation of the infinite unseen power imbedded in the heart of the universe itself. It is something which the eyes see not, but on the account, of which the eyes sees, the ears hear and the mind thinks. A religious and God loving man is not only to make his own life noble and beautiful, he is also to devote himself to helping other people to live virtuous and happy lives, or in other words to establish kingdom of God on earth.

TRANSMIGRATION OF SOUL

Swami Dayanand believes in the doctrine of transmigration of soul. According to him Moksha or salvation consists in the complete cessation of suffering in all the forms.

The doctrine of transmigration goes along with the law of karma which is an application of the universal law of Causation in the domain of mind and consciousness. Human beings however are not absolutely determined in their lives by their previous karma. Of course, we determine our own fate through Our actions. What we have sown, we shall have to reap in this life or next. Our will and effort do Play an important part in determining our future. Each one gets in the next birth what he deserve, as the result of his karma or actions in the present life. The doctrine of transmigration of soul ensures that each individual will sooner or later attain to salvation. It is a doctrine of hope and optimism.

CONCEPT OF SALVATION

In a vague manner the salvation as a state of bliss, a state of complete absence of suffering, and of perpetual union with God, it is a true immortality. In the works of Swami Dayanand salvation means, “the emancipation of the soul from pain and suffering of every description and a career of freedom in the all pervading God and his immense creation for a fixed period of time and its resumption of earthly life after the expiry of that period”. Swami ji does not believe in the disappearance of the finite and has a meaning apart from | it. We are surrounded by infinity on all sides, and therefore, the idea of an infinite number of souls makes equal sense with idea of infinity of points in space or time.

HEAVEN AND HELL

According to Swami ji Heaven and Hell are states of mind and not any fixed abodes located in space for the reception of souls of good and bad persons after their death. “Swarga (Heaven) is the enjoyment of extreme happiness. Naraka is another name for undergoing extreme suffering.” Heaven is described as a region where there is nothing but bliss and all sorts of joys, and to which those persons go after death.

THE NATURE OF REALITY

There are three ultimate and irreducible principles of the universal matter, souls and God, and that reality is an organic whole of these three external substances. The sense

knowledge which the original stimuli are translated for us Physical objects; however are not the only existents.

The survey of related studies implies, locating, studying, and evaluating reports of relevant researches, studies of published articles, going through related portions of encyclopedias, research abstracts, and study of pertinent pages out of comprehensive books on the subject and going through related manuscripts. For a meaningful study in any field of knowledge, the research worker needs an adequate familiarity with the work which has already been done in the sea of his choice. Related studies helped the research worker to find out, what had already been known, what others have attempted to find out, what methods they have adopted and what type of problems remained to be solved. These studies formed the basis of the research projects in various sciences and humanities. These studies helped the researcher to know the means of getting to the frontiers in the field of his research.

Arora, C.P. (2013) found in his study that Swami Dayanand is the first name of Moolshankar Swami Purnan and initiated him as Sanyasi gave him name as Swami Dayanand Saraswati. Swami started working on social issues and discussed cow slaughter with British officers and got a petition sent to Queen Victoria to ban cow-slaughter. He devoted his life for the revival of Vedas, for the removal of social evils. He was the first person to ask about sawaraj. He stressed on people to use articles prepared by their own countrymen. Arya samaj movement paved the way for upliftment of women through educational opportunities, removal of social evils like smoking, drinking, purdah system, animal sacrifice etc. The United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Kenya, South Africa, Singapore, Hongkong and Australia are some of the Countries where the samaj has its branches.

Sriloy, M. (2011) examined that Dayanand Saraswati set about the difficult task of reforming Hinduism with dedication despite attempts on his life. Arya Samaj appeal was addressed not only to the educated few in India, but to the world as a whole as evidence in the sixth principle of the Arya Samaj. Dayanand's Vedic message was to emphasize respect and reverence for other human beings. In ten principles of the Arya Samaj, he enshrined the idea that all actions should be performed with the prime

objective of benefiting mankind as opposed to following dogmatic rituals or revering idols and symbols. He advocated the ideal age for a girl to be between 16 and 24 and for men between 25 and 40. He was the first leader in the field of theology who welcomed the advances of sciences and technology. To him, the Vedas are the source book contain the seed of science, and to him, the Vedas advocate the philosophy of dynamic realism.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To study in brief the life-sketch of Swami Dyanand Saraswati.
2. To study the general philosophy of Swami Dayanand Saraswati.
3. To study the educational thoughts of Swami Dayanand Saraswati.
4. To study its relevance in modern times.

DELIMITATION

The topic of Research is broad and comprehensive. The paucity of time has necessitated the delimitation of the problem. The teachings of the Swami Dayanand are very comprehensive and it is not possible for the investigator to cover all the field of the study. The study is wide and it requires lot of time. In such a short time Researcher has tried his best efforts to deals with all the aspects of this study. The topic is philosophical and based on historical approach. The main efforts were to study the topic under the cover of educational thoughts of Swami Dayanand Saraswati and their relevance to modern Indian education and their contribution to the field of education such as spread of education, organizations pattern etc.

METHOD AND PROCEDURE

The purpose of the study is to collect information to find out how much the educational thoughts of Swami Dayanand Saraswati impact on modern education and society. So the present study is philosophical in nature. The study will include the analysis of the philosophical ideas of Swami Dayanand Saraswati and their implication for education. Due to its philosophical nature study will be based on intensive library research. The scheme of the study would basis Life sketch of Swami Dayanand Saraswati.

Philosophy of Swami Dayanand Saraswati. Contribution in the field of education relevance with modern Indian education.

EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS OF THE STUDY

In our national perception, education is essentially for all. This is fundamental to our all-round development, material and spiritual. Modern education system should include value system, So that education may have certain specific ideals to boost up the welfare of the whole society. The value loading education system will enrich the scope of education. The values always enable our educationists to draw up better plans for future education system. Values education should help to eliminate obscurantism, religious fanaticism, violence, superstitions and fatalism.

There is need to redefine the aims of education system, as in the past, the purpose of education was to simply educate the people to bring awakening among them. But the aims of modern education should be to develop all round personality of every individual and make him fit for a particular job, so that education should be job oriented. The modern education system should enlighten upon every aspect of personality, so that this knowledge may help everyone to get right direction in life.

There is also necessity to modify the curriculum as in the past, it was suitable for the old society, but with the changing needs of our society, the entire curriculum should be changed and it should be made job-oriented, which is the basic need of our unemployed youth. The changed curriculum will provide suitable opportunities to youth to get immediate employment. The infrastructure pertaining to our modern society should be added in our curriculum, which will help to solve the multifarious problems of the society.

Old teaching methods should be changed or improved the policy of co-education should be implemented throughout the country as this program will enable the women-folk to enjoy the right to education like wise men without any notion of inferiority complex. It will enhance the competition spirit among women. Our government should accelerate the pace of co-education to yield better results about women education. The

government should ensure special attention towards smooth implementation of co-education policy in the entire country.

SUGGESTIONS

1. In depth study of present investigation can be conducted to gain more knowledge and ideas.
2. A comparative study can be conducted amongst swami Dayanand Saraswati and present Indian and Western thinkers.
3. The contribution of D.A.V institutions in the field of education in India-A critical study
4. Swami Dayanand as an educator.

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